

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Purpose

In 1991, the federal government listed some of the Pacific Northwest's wild salmon as near extinction under the Endangered Species Act. By 1999, wild salmon had disappeared from about 40 percent of their historic breeding ranges in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California. In Washington, the numbers had dwindled so much that salmon and bull trout were listed as threatened or endangered in nearly three-fourths of the state. That year, the Legislature created the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to administer state and federal funds to protect and restore salmon habitat.

Grant programs and activities

Local and regional citizen groups develop plans and solicit projects to protect and restore vital salmon habitat. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board reviews those projects and provides funding. Since 2000, the Board has awarded \$195.4 million in grants for 592 projects in 30 of the 39 counties. Projects funded by the board include:

Habitat protection and restoration

- Fixed or removed 132 barriers to fish migration, opening up an estimated 456 miles of stream for salmon habitat.
- Planted trees and shrubs along 96 miles of streams to cool the water and provide sources of wood. The wood falls into the streams and creates cover and pools where salmon can rest.
- Abandoned or fixed 222 miles of road to reduce the amount of soil washing into streams.
- Changed river flows in 85 acres to slow the rivers and create places for salmon to spawn and grow.
- Worked with willing landowners statewide to protect habitat through conservation easements and property acquisitions.
- Removed 19 dikes and tide gates in estuaries to allow freshwater and saltwater to mix, opening an estimated 6 miles of transition areas for salmon headed to and from the sea.



A worker ties together logs for placement in the middle fork of the Nooksack River in Whatcom County. The logs will improve spawning and rearing conditions for Chinook salmon.

Watershed assessment

- Provided funding for assessments, such as an inventory of barriers to fish passage, to determine the most important projects to protect and restore salmon habitat.

Other activities

- Funded regional salmon recovery boards so local citizens and elected officials could develop plans for their watersheds for the recovery of salmon listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

- Supported the Department of Ecology's efforts to save water to benefit salmon.
- Supported the Department of Natural Resources as it enforces logging rules under the "Forest and Fish Agreement," writes habitat conservation plans for forests to protect salmon and other endangered animals, and maps streams.
- Provided family forest owners with technical assistance and funding to fix barriers to fish migration under the Family Forest Fish Passage Program.

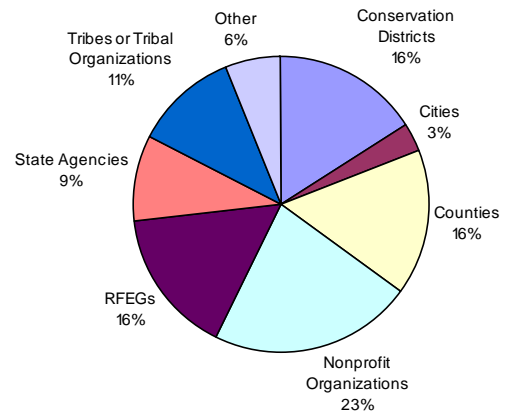
Who can apply for a grant?

- Local governments
- Tribes
- Landowners
- Nonprofit organizations
- State agencies
- Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEs)
- Conservation Districts

Monitoring

To ensure that projects are making a difference, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board supports monitoring in several ways. Selected projects across the state are being studied to see which kinds of restoration actions are the most effective. More intensive monitoring in selected watersheds also is being done to quantify resulting changes in salmon populations. State agencies are working together through the newly established Governor's Forum on Monitoring to ensure that monitoring of state salmon recovery actions is well coordinated. In addition, many local governments, tribes, and other organizations have been actively monitoring watershed conditions.

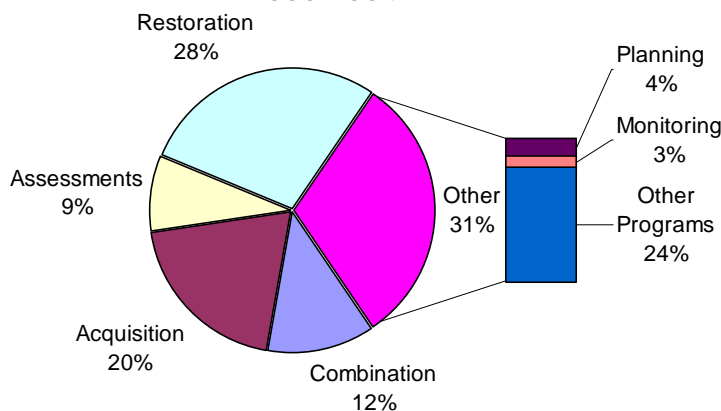
Projects by recipient
Percent of 592 total projects



Where does the money come from and how is it spent?

Funding for the grants comes from state general obligation bonds and the federal Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund.

Funded Project Types
Percent of \$195.4 Million Total
2000-2004



Board members

William D. Ruckelshaus, Chair, Seattle
 Frank "Larry" Cassidy, Jr., Vancouver
 Brenda P. McMurray, Yakima
 James L. Peters, Olympia
 Steve Tharinger, Clallam County

Agency members

Department of Ecology
 Department of Fish & Wildlife
 Department of Natural Resources
 Department of Transportation Washington
 Conservation Commission